

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE with the following rewritten  
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A knife holder 1 for a cutting knife 2 of a microtome for cutting samples is described. Knife holder 1 has a pressure plate 3 for locking the cutting knife in the knife holder and for discharging the cut sample. A U-shaped frame 4, open toward edge 5 of cutting knife 2, is associated with pressure plate 3.

~~(FIG. 1)~~ --